

OBITUARY

Ian Mellanby

January 16, 1963 — September 29, 2022



Right to left: Iván Egry, Jean-François Sacadura, Martin O'Neill and Ian Mellanby during the *International Workshop on Subsecond Thermophysics*, Cologne, June 2019

It is with great sadness that I report here the passing of Ian Mellanby, co-owner of Old City Publishing (OCP), publisher of *HThP*, whom many of you may have known in his role of Publishing Director.

OCP has been publishing the relaunched *HThP* since 2008, following my negotiations in 2006 with the previous publisher, Pion, and numerous interviews to select new Editors-in-Chief under the guidance of Jean-François Sacadura. Ian was immediately impressed by both the character and standing

of both Iván Egry and Jean-François, and also relished the thought of taking over a title that had been so influential in thermophysics since the 1970s.

Ian was passionate about maintaining quality. OCP was founded in 2001 with Ian's strong belief that publishing was a profession, rather than a trade. Ian could not thrive in the sales-driven environment adopted by some larger publishers. Quality not only takes time and commitment to develop, but also has to be paid for, whether by libraries, individuals or authors, he thought. While adopting the hybrid approach allowing authors to publish on an open access basis in many journals, Ian was a staunch advocate of the subscription model, and foresaw a situation eventually where open access would coexist with subscription publications, rather like the way live theatre, cinema, TV and the internet coexist to deliver in the entertainment field.

In OCP, Ian was also running a very personal operation, meaning that when he met authors and editors, which he loved to do, he offered a one-stop solution and delivered to meet their expectations to the best of his ability with minimum delay. There was no need to submit proposals to committees to obtain funding for projects. Ian committed to meeting the Editors-in-Chief regularly, often latterly in connection with the *International Workshop on Subsecond Thermophysics*. Ian was very proud to have acquired refereed contributions to this meeting for publication in *HThP*. Ian also oversaw, under guidance from the Editors-in-Chief and board members, the acquisition of peer-reviewed papers from the *Asian Thermophysical Properties Conference*, *Korean Society of Thermophysical Properties* and the *European Conference on Thermophysical Properties*. Over the years, meetings with the Editors-in-Chief were held in Paris, Lyon, Cologne, Karlsruhe, not to mention Bassinaud, in rural France.

I first met Ian in the early 1990s, as a fellow senior commissioning editor at Gordon and Breach (G+B), where he worked from 1990 to 2001. A hot topic of the time was technology where devices would be based on photons rather than electrons, offering possibilities for miniaturization. Japan was a major centre for research in nonlinear optics and thus from Tokyo I initiated one of the first English-language journals led by a Japanese editor-in-chief. Ian enthusiastically contributed to the project by liaising closely with the European Regional Editor, François Kajzar. G+B was not alone in identifying this area as a hot topic and the race was on to see which of three publishers would launch their publication earliest. Coordination of the editorial team in the USA, Europe and Japan led to *Nonlinear Optics* appearing first—the journal was selected for the annual review in *Nature* of promising new publications.

As Ian used to say, “You do not score the goal, if you do not make the shot”.

Prior to G+B, Ian entered publishing as an Assistant Editor on *Metal Powder Report*.

In 1989, Ian gained his PhD in metallurgy and materials science from Nottingham University, under the supervision of J.R. Moon.

Ian was at Leeds Grammar School in the UK and was a lifelong supporter of Leeds United. Ian also continued to pursue his passion for soccer in his adopted home of Philadelphia.*

In his leisure time, Ian was a bass guitarist with the group *56 Men*.†

Ian leaves a loving wife, Barbara; daughter, Violet; a devoted sister, Karen; and mum, Pauline, justifiably proud of her children. His colleagues Guy Griffiths and Ed Farnsworth also feel this loss keenly. A lively light has gone out. I guess Ian would not wish us to be too downhearted; nevertheless, I have lost not only a trusted colleague, but also a true friend.

Ian, we will miss you. Thanks for the good times and profitable collaboration.

Martin O'Neill
*Editorial Consultant
for OCP Europe*

*<https://phillysoccerpage.net/2022/10/07/in-memoriam-ian-mellanby/>

†<http://www.ziprecords.com/56-men>